



Northampton Human Rights Commission

Pledge to Support Human Dignity and Culture of Civility in Northampton

What is the Dignity Pledge? The Dignity Pledge is an effort that asks residents of and visitors to Northampton to reflect on the ways we can treat one another with dignity and respect as a basic tenet of our community. This is the entire text of the pledge:

As a member of the Northampton community, I acknowledge that bias incidents and acts of hate destroy the fabric of our community, threaten the personal and collective safety of residents and visitors to our city, and can escalate into criminal activity. I pledge to support the human dignity of all persons and a civil Northampton by refraining from disparaging other people based on who they are, and by attending to those who are the targets of such acts. I join this community effort to neutralize bigotry and support people who are marginalized and disenfranchised.

Why are people taking the pledge? In response to an increase in hate speech and hateful actions that target people for who they are, we ask people to join in a community campaign that upholds the expectation that we can treat one another with dignity, no matter our differences. We believe that the responsibility for building a just and equitable Northampton belongs to all of us.

Who is promoting this campaign? The Northampton Human Rights Commission is launching this effort and has received support from Mayor Narkewicz and the City Council. The Human Rights Commission is now asking for broad based support from all members of the community.

How does the campaign work? The Human Rights Commission launched the effort with a resolution endorsed by City Council in July. Beginning Dec. 10, 2017, International Human Rights Day, the pledge becomes available for signatures. Copies for signature will be available [online](#), at public libraries, City Hall, and will be circulated at participating houses of worship, schools, and business, until Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 15, 2018.

Isn't this just a 'feel-good' thing? What difference will it make?

We **do** hope it will feel good to practice seeing our neighbors as worthy of dignity and respect! We think that safe communities are created out of countless incidents of decency and kindness. We hope to add to that number in Northampton.

Please contact the Human Rights Commission with additional comments and questions:

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